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NVIC 4-01
MAY 21, 2001

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

Subj: LICENSING AND MANNING FOR OFFICERS OF TOWING VESSELS

1. PURPOSE. This Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) clarifies and provides specific guidance on licensing and manning for officers of towing vessels.
2. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. Marine Safety Manual, Volume III, Chapters 10, 13, 19, 20, and 26, COMDTINST M16000.8B.
3. ACTION.
 - a. Owners, operators, and masters of towing vessels should become familiar with the change in the manning requirements for towing vessels. Operators of these vessels should also become familiar with the change in the training and license progression required of those mariners pursuing licenses to operate towing vessels.
 - b. Officers in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMIs), should bring this Circular to the attention of owners and operators of towing vessels, mariners, professional organizations, labor unions, and other parties with maritime interests.
 - c. Regional Examination Centers (RECs) should use the guidance provided by this NVIC to evaluate those mariners applying for licenses to operate towing vessels.
 - d. This NVIC is available on the World-Wide Web at:
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic/index.htm>. The Coast Guard will distribute it internally by electronic means only.

4. BACKGROUND.

- a. After the allision, in September 1993, of a towing vessel and its barges with a railroad bridge near Mobile, Alabama (Amtrak casualty), the Secretary of Transportation initiated an examination of the safety of towing vessels. This examination resulted, in part, in the development of a report entitled *Review of Marine Safety Issues Related to Uninspected*

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NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

Towing Vessels. Among the report's recommendations were the need to improve licensing, training, and qualifications of operators of uninspected towing vessels (OUTVs) and to improve navigational safety on towing vessels.

- b. Several other casualties involving towing vessels followed the Amtrak casualty. Each demonstrates the urgent need to examine the rules for licensing of all operators of towing vessels. After a thorough examination of the rules and a number of public meetings, we published a notice of proposed rulemaking and a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking, on June 19, 1996 [61 FR 31332], and October 27, 1997 [62 FR 55548], respectively. These notices proposed changes for the licensing of officers of towing vessels. We revised the proposed rule in response to public comment, and published an interim rule on November 19, 1999 [64 FR 63213]. We revised it further in a third interim rule published in April 2001. These rules are effective on May 21, 2001.
- c. Before this rule, the license structure for towing vessels had, effectively, a single grade of license, OUTV. (The license for 2nd-class OUTV has largely gone unused in the towing industry, resulting in this limited license progression.)
- d. Under the licensing scheme in effect until May 21, 2001, a mariner holding a license as master of inspected, self-propelled vessels stands equivalent to OUTV and may operate a towing vessel up to the tonnage limit on the face of the license. This equivalence extends to individuals licensed as mate or first-class pilot of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 gross register tons (GRT).
- e. The licensing process, before May 21, 2001, under Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, section 10.211 (46 CFR 10.211), required a mariner to submit official documents from marine employers signed by appropriate officials or licensed masters. Mariners owning vessels of not more than 200 GRT could attest their own service. Mariners not owning vessels and working on vessels less than 200 GRT needed to obtain letters or other evidence of service from licensed personnel or from owners of vessels.
- f. The rules in effect on or after May 21, 2001, provide a new license title for those officers operating towing vessels, master of towing vessels. This license divides into a multi-purpose license and a limited license. License progression comes about through the use of licenses as apprentice mate (steersman) and mate (pilot) of towing vessels. After suitable service on towing vessels a mariner will undergo examination by the Coast Guard, and, if successful, receive a license as apprentice mate (steersman). After training and assessment, he or she will receive a license as mate (pilot) of towing vessels. The license title is mate (pilot) of towing vessel; however, a mariner may request the use of either mate or pilot of towing vessels according to regional preference. After further experience he or she will receive a license as master of towing vessels without further requirement for completion of written examinations, with certain exceptions. A mariner seeking endorsements under STCW may need further training and assessment to obtain the necessary certificate.

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

- g. Officers currently operating towing vessels will not have to convert to the new license until their current licenses require renewal on or after May 21, 2001. Officers with at least 90 days' experience operating towing vessels will not lose any authority to operate those vessels. Their licenses will be renewed as indicated later in this Circular.
- h. The following table sets out the requirements for a license under the rules in place before May 21, 2001, and whether the new rule revised them.

Minimum age 46 CFR 10.201(f)	No change under new rule
Citizenship 46 CFR 10.201(e)	No change under new rule
Physical examination 46 CFR 10.205(d)	No change under new rule
Experience or training 46 CFR 10.464	<i>Change under new rule</i>
Character check and references 46 CFR 10.205(f)	No change under new rule
Firefighting: certificates 46 CFR 10.205(g)	No change under new rule
First aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificates 46 CFR 10.205(h)	No change under new rule
Professional Examination 46 CFR 10.205(i)	<i>Change under new rule</i>
Practical demonstration of skills 46 CFR 10.304(h)	<i>Change under new rule</i>

- i. Assistance towing underwent no change with this rule. We still consider assistance towing to be 'towing a disabled vessel for consideration.' We have clarified the definition of 'disabled vessel' [see paragraph 5.a.] to specify what vessels we consider to be disabled vessels. Experience operating assistance-towing vessels is not comparable to operating other types of towing vessels.

5. DEFINITIONS.

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

The following definitions appear in the rules in effect on or after May 21, 2001, and as published in the CFR:

- a. Disabled vessel means a vessel that needs assistance, whether docked, moored, anchored, aground, adrift, or having been under way with a loss of propulsion; but does not mean a barge or any other vessel not regularly operated under its own power.
- b. Harbor assist means the use of a towing vessel during maneuvers to dock, undock, moor, or unmoor a vessel or to escort a vessel with limited maneuverability.
- c. Inland waters means the navigable waters of the United States shoreward of the Boundary Lines as described in 46 CFR part 7, excluding the Great Lakes and, for towing vessels, excluding the Western Rivers. For establishing credit for sea service, the waters of the Inside Passage between Puget Sound and Cape Spencer, Alaska, are inland waters.
- d. Pilot of Towing Vessels means a qualified officer of towing vessels operating on inland routes. (This is an alternative term for mate of towing vessels).

The following definitions are necessary to clarify this Circular, though they may not appear in the rule as published in the CFR:

- e. Assessment means evaluation.
- f. Designated examiner means a person who has been trained or instructed in techniques of training or assessment and is otherwise qualified to evaluate whether a candidate for a license, document, or endorsement has achieved the level of competence required.
- g. Gross Register Tons (GRT) means tonnage as measured under the domestic measurement process as detailed in Title 46, United States Code, section 14501 [46 U.S.C. 14501].
- h. License for master of towing vessels authorizes service within any route authorized by the license, including harbor assist and limited local area.
- i. License for master of towing vessels, limited allows a mariner with limited geographic experience an opportunity to obtain a license. This will authorize service only in limited geographic areas.
- j. License for mate (pilot) of towing vessels pertains to a qualified officer subordinate to a master of towing vessels. A mate (pilot) of towing vessels may stand a watch, but a master of towing vessels must also be on the vessel.
- k. License for apprentice mate (steersman) pertains to a mariner in training to become master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels, who has passed all required examinations for the

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

applicable towing license. Nonetheless, he or she may only serve under the direct supervision of an officer qualified for towing vessels.

- l. Limited local area means a defined limited geographic area designated by the local OCMI.
 - m. National Driver Registry (NDR) the National Driver Registry as referred to in 46 CFR 10.201(i).
 - n. Proficiency means having the practical ability to apply the necessary knowledge, skill, and experience.
 - o. Regional Examination Center (REC) refers to any of the Coast Guard licensing offices as defined in 46 CFR 10.105.
 - p. Route means the general geographic body or bodies of water endorsed on the face of a license (specifically, Oceans, Near-coastal, Great Lakes–inland, Western Rivers, or Limited Local Area).
 - q. Simulator course is a course that uses simulation equipment in evaluating a mariner's proficiency.
 - r. Towing Officer's Assessment Record (TOAR) is a record used to document the training and assessment of a mariner in the towing industry.
 - s. Western Rivers means the Mississippi River, its tributaries; South Pass and Southwest Pass, to the navigational demarcation lines dividing the high seas from harbors, rivers, and other inland waters of the United States; Port Allen—Morgan City Alternate Route; that part of the Atchafalaya River above its junction with the Port Allen—Morgan City Alternate Route including the Old River and the Red River; and those waters specified in 33 CFR 89.25.
6. APPLICABILITY.
- a. All mariners in the towing industry are subject to the rules effective on May 21, 2001.
 - b. Mariners with current OUTV licenses will receive licenses as masters of towing vessels. They will receive their new licenses at their first upgrades or renewals following May 20, 2001.

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

- c. Other licensed officers with authority and experience operating towing vessels may have their licenses endorsed for service on towing vessels. Any relevant endorsements will be added to their licenses at their next upgrades or renewals after May 20, 2001 (if at all). In some cases licensed officers holding completed TOARs do not require endorsements.

7. DISCUSSION.

a. Categories of licenses:

- (1) Master of towing vessels: replacement for the current OUTV. The following limited licenses are also available:
 - (a) Master of towing vessels (harbor assist): a license restricted to harbor towing vessels (not issued during the initial phase-in period, the period before publication of the final rule).
 - (b) Master of towing vessels (limited): a license limited to a local geographic area or special use.
- (2) Mate (pilot) of towing vessels: (formerly 2nd-Class OUTV). The following limited licenses are also available:
 - (a) Mate (pilot) of towing vessels (harbor assist): a license restricted to harbor towing vessels (not issued during the initial phase-in period).
 - (b) Mate (pilot) of towing vessels (limited): a license limited to a local geographic area or special use.
- (3) Apprentice mate (steersman): a mariner in a training program to become a mate (pilot) of towing vessels or master of towing vessels (harbor assist). This license may be issued with the same limitations as noted for master and mate of towing vessels. The specific limitation is only dependent on the exam taken by the candidate.

b. License route endorsements and authority:

- (1) Oceans
- (2) Near-coastal waters
- (3) Great Lakes–inland waters
- (4) Western Rivers
- (5) Limited Local Area

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

- (6) Harbor assist. This route will not be issued during the initial phase-in period; a license for a limited local area will, instead.
- (7) A license as master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels endorsed for Oceans authorizes service on oceans and on the subordinate routes of near-coastal and Great Lakes–inland waters (except Western Rivers).
- (8) A license as master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels endorsed for near-coastal waters authorizes service on near-coastal routes, Great Lakes–inland waters (except Western Rivers), without further endorsement.
- (9) A license as master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels endorsed for Great Lakes–inland routes authorizes service on Great Lakes–inland routes (except Western Rivers), without further endorsement.

c. Upgrading the Towing Licenses.

To receive an endorsement for a higher route or for Western Rivers, the mariner must obtain 90 days of observation and training, and completion of any portions of the TOAR not previously completed. He or she may also have to complete a limited examination for the area or route and should ask the local REC for more-detailed information.

d. Requirements for towing licenses:

The U.S. Coast Guard, using evaluation tools similar to the examples in enclosure (2), will evaluate each mariner. The following table provides a summary of the general requirements necessary for each towing license.

(Table on following page.)

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

<i>License</i>	<i>Total Service</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Time on Route</i>	<i>TOAR or Training Program required</i>	<i>Exam</i>	<i>Days of Observation for New Route</i>
<i>Master of towing vessels</i>	<i>48 mo.</i>	<i>Service as mate (pilot)</i>	<i>90 days</i>	<i>NO²</i>	<i>NO²</i>	<i>90 days for increase in the scope of the license.</i>
		<i>18 mos¹</i>				
<i>Mate (pilot) of towing vessels</i>	<i>30 mo.</i>	<i>Service as Apprentice Mate</i>	<i>90 days</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO²</i>	
		<i>12 mo.</i>				
<i>Apprentice Mate (Steersman)</i>	<i>18 mo.</i>	<i>Service on towing vessels 12 mo.</i>	<i>90 days</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>90 days on any route</i>

1. Up to 180 days of harbor assist can be credited.

2. TOAR or approved course and Limited Exam may be required if not previously completed for route.

- e. To progress from apprentice mate (steersman) to mate (pilot) of towing vessel a mariner needs to complete either—
 - (1) an on-the-job training program documented in a TOAR [see enclosures (3 through 6)] or,
 - (2) an approved training course [see 46 CFR 10.103].
- f. The TOAR, noted in paragraph 7.e.(1) above, documents and records required assessments for progression between apprentice mate (steersman) and mate (pilot) of towing vessels. This provides the Coast Guard a consistent form of evidence to review.
- g. An approved training course is one reviewed and approved by the Coast Guard as being in compliance with the requirements of 46 CFR 10.302.
- h. A designated examiner is a person who is qualified, and approved by the Coast Guard, to evaluate whether a candidate for a license is proficient at performing specific tasks by comparing the performance of the tasks against performance standards published by the Coast Guard.
- i. Obtaining authority to operate towing vessels requires the mariner to meet the licensing requirements of 46 CFR part 10; and the manning requirements of 46 CFR 15.610, 15.805, and 15.810. This Circular guides mariners through the licensing requirements. According to 46 CFR 15.610, the mariner must hold the following evidence when operating towing vessels:

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

- (1) Between May 20, 2001, and May 21, 2006, and before any license transaction during this period, any of the following licenses will serve as adequate evidence on a vessel operating within any limitations on their faces (see paragraph 7.m.):
 - (a) Master of towing vessels.
 - (b) Master of towing vessels (harbor assist) or (limited) for vessels operating within the restrictions on the license.
 - (c) Operator of Uninspected Towing Vessels (OUTV).
 - (d) Master of inspected self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license (issued before May 21, 2001).
 - (e) Mate or first-class pilot of inspected self-propelled vessels (issued before May 21, 2001).
 - (f) Mate of inspected self-propelled vessels of greater than 200 GRT whose license was issued before May 21, 2001, may continue to serve as master of towing vessels.
 - (g) Mate (pilot) of towing vessels.
 - (h) Mate of towing vessels (limited) for vessels operating within the restrictions on the license.
 - (i) 2nd-class OUTV (may only serve as mate of towing vessels).
- (2) Any license issued or endorsed on or after May 21, 2001, must have one of the following endorsements and the appropriate evidence, as indicated, for service on towing vessels:
 - (a) Master of towing vessels.
 - (b) Master of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 GRT when accompanied by a completed TOAR.
 - (c) Master of towing vessels (harbor assist) or (limited) for vessels operating within the restrictions on the license.
 - (d) Mate (pilot) of towing vessels.
 - (e) Mate of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 GRT when accompanied by a completed TOAR.

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

- (f) Mate of towing vessels (limited) for vessels operating within the restrictions on the license.
- j. Obtaining an endorsement for limited local areas.
 - (1) To receive an endorsement for limited local area, the mariner must acquire 30 days of observation and training over the route, complete a TOAR, and pass a limited examination for the area or route.
 - (2) An officer licensed as mate of towing vessels may obtain the license as master of towing vessels (limited) on request if he or she—
 - (a) Submits an application;
 - (b) Holds a current license authorizing service on the route that includes the limited local area; and
 - (c) Produces evidence of 30 days of observation and training over the specific limited local area.
- k. Lower Mississippi River.
 - (1) Until May 21, 2001, an officer with an endorsement for Great Lakes–inland waters, Near-Coastal waters, or Oceans would serve on Western Rivers under lesser-included authority. The interim rule changed this. After May 20, 2001, an officer entering the licensing process who wishes to operate on Western Rivers must obtain an endorsement for Western Rivers.
 - (2) However, an officer of towing vessels with an endorsement for Great Lakes–inland waters, Near-Coastal waters, or Oceans may operate a towing vessel in the pilotage waters of the Lower Mississippi River if he or she meets one of the following requirements from 46 CFR 15.812(b):
 - (a) Holds a first-class pilot’s license for the route.
 - (b) If operating ‘light boat’, or a tow of uninspected barges, has made four round trips through this route, as an observer, with at least one of those trips in hours of darkness, and afterwards maintains at least one round trip within the last 5 years.
 - (c) If operating a tow of tank barges, has made 12 round trips over this route, as an observer, at least three of those trips during hours of darkness; and afterwards maintains at least one round trip within the last 5 years.

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. **4-01**

- (3) An officer who meets one of these requirements need not obtain an endorsement for Western Rivers on his or her license, but must maintain evidence of having completed the required experience.

1. Existing Licenses.

Towing licenses issued before May 21, 2001, will be grandfathered to master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels. Refer to the following figure from 46 CFR 10.210. (Figure located on following page.)

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

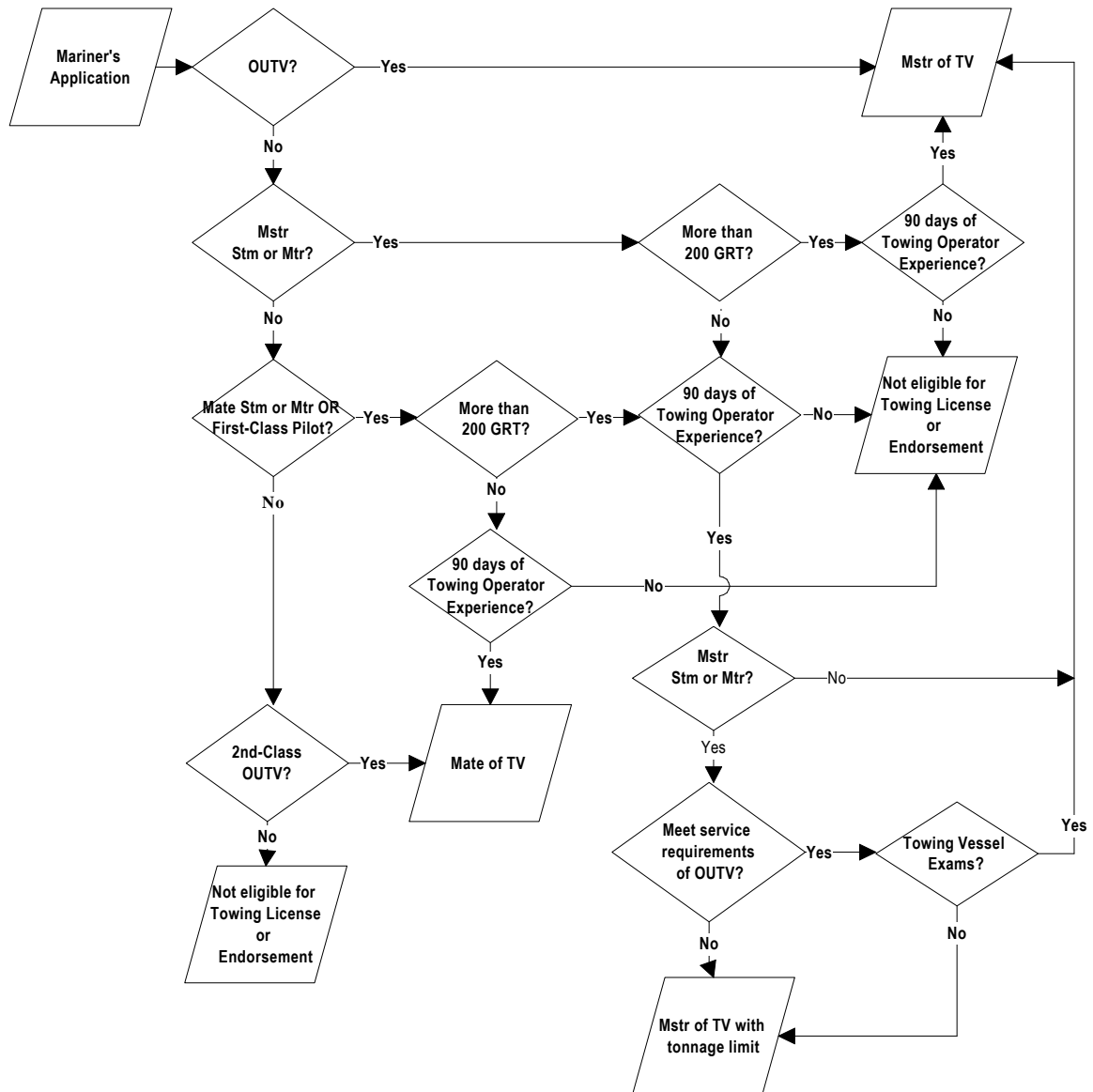


Figure10.210 ELIGIBILITY FOR TOWING LICENSE

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

- m. Manning. Generally, towing vessels are subject only to the provisions of 46 U.S.C. 8904 for licensed mariners. Seagoing towing vessels of at least 200 GRT must be operated by mariners licensed as masters and mates of inspected, self-propelled vessels with the appropriate endorsements for towing vessels, tonnages, and routes [46 CFR part 15, subpart D].
- (1) Between May 20, 2001, and May 21, 2006, any towing vessel may be under the direction and control of the following:
- (a) An officer designated to be the master holding one of the following licenses:
1. Master of towing vessel.
 2. Master of towing vessels (harbor assist) or (limited) when operating solely within a limited local area included within the restrictions on the individual's license.
 3. Operator of Uninspected Towing Vessels.
 4. Master of inspected self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license, while holding a completed TOAR.
 5. Master of inspected self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license, until its first renewal then see paragraph 7.m.(1)(c) below.
 6. Mate or first-class pilot of inspected self-propelled vessels of more than 200 GRT, until the license's first renewal; then see paragraph 7.m.(1)(c) below (Domestic service only).
- (b) Another officer holding one of the following licenses, if the vessel requires a second licensed officer:
1. A license listed in 7.m.(1)(a) above;
 2. Mate (pilot) of towing vessels (within any restrictions on the license);
 3. Mate of inspected self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license, while holding a completed TOAR;
 4. 2nd-Class OUTV; or
 5. Mate of inspected self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the license, until the first renewal or upgrade of the license.

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

- (c) An officer holding a license renewed or upgraded during this period must have a towing-vessel endorsement on it for it to be valid for service on towing vessels after the date of renewal or upgrade. An officer holding a completed TOAR and a license as master or mate of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 GRT does not need an endorsement.
- (2) After May 21, 2006, towing vessels must be under the direction and control of the following:
 - (a) An officer holding a license as master of towing vessels, or master of inspected self-propelled vessel greater than 200 GRT holding a completed TOAR.
 - (b) An officer holding a license as mate (pilot) of towing vessels, or a mate of inspected self-propelled vessels, greater than 200 GRT, holding a completed TOAR, if the vessel requires a second licensed officer.
- n. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW).
 - (1) All officers on seagoing towing vessels must satisfy STCW.
 - (2) Specific information on STCW is available in other Circulars about it or from the local REC and also on the Coast Guard Web Site at:

<http://www.uscg.mil/stcw/>


8. SAMPLE ENDORSEMENTS:

- a. *Master of Towing Vessels Upon Near-Coastal Waters; also Mate of Steam or Motor Vessels of Not More Than 500 Gross Register Tons Upon Near-Coastal Waters; also Radar Observer (Unlimited): Expires July 2002.*
- b. *Master of Towing Vessels Upon Great Lakes–Inland Waters; also Radar Observer (Unlimited): Expires June 2006.*
- c. *Master of Steam or Motor Vessels of Not More Than 100 Gross Register Tons Upon Inland Waters; also Master of Towing Vessels of Not More Than 100 Gross Register Tons Upon Great Lakes–Inland; also Radar Observer (Inland): Expires July 2006.*
- d. *Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels Upon Great Lakes–Inland Waters; also Apprentice Mate (Steersman) Upon Western Rivers.*
- e. *Master of Steam or Motor Vessels of Not More Than 100 Gross Register Tons Upon Inland Waters; also Mate of Steam or Motor Vessels of Not More Than 200 Gross Register Tons*

NAVIGATION AND VESSEL INSPECTION CIRCULAR NO. 4-01

(Domestic Tonnage), 500 Gross Tons (ITC Tonnage), Upon Near-Coastal Waters; also Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels Upon Great Lakes–Inland Waters; also Radar Observer (Unlimited): Expires July 2004.

- f. *Master of Steam or Motor Vessels of Not More Than 200 Gross Register Tons (Domestic Tonnage), 500 Gross Tons (ITC Tonnage), Upon Near-Coastal Waters; also Master of Towing Vessels Upon Near-Coastal Waters; also Radar Observer (Unlimited): Expires May 2005.*
 - g. *Master of Towing Vessels (Limited) Upon the Western Rivers on the Ohio River from Mile 743.0 to Mile 747.0; Also Radar Observer – Rivers: Expires March 2006.*
 - h. *Master Steam or Motor Vessels of Not More Than 100 Gross Register Tons Upon Inland Waters; also Master of Towing Vessels (Limited) of Not More Than 100 Gross Register Tons Upon the Western Rivers on the Upper Mississippi River from Mile 282 UMR to 366 UMR and Missouri River from Mile 0 MOR to Mile 10 MOR; Also Radar Observer – Rivers: Expires March 2005.*
 - i. *Apprentice Mate (Steersman) of Towing Vessels Upon Western Rivers.*
9. QUESTIONS. A number of frequently asked questions and responses appear in enclosure (1). Direct other questions you may have regarding this guidance to any REC, or to the NMC at (202) 493-1000.


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- Encl:
- (1) Frequently asked questions
 - (2) Evaluation Tools for use by the Coast Guard
 - (3) Towing Officers' Assessment Record – Near-Coastal and Oceans
 - (4) Towing Officers' Assessment Record – Great Lakes–Inland.
 - (5) Towing Officers' Assessment Record – Western Rivers
 - (6) Towing Officers' Assessment Record – Limited

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Frequently Asked Questions

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THIS SECTION:

1. Existing Licenses for Towing Vessels	1
a. Will my existing license be valid on towing vessels after May 20, 2001?	1
Figure: Eligibility for Towing Licenses	2
b. Will you grandfather my current license or authority for towing vessels?	2
c. How do I renew my OUTV License?	3
d. What is a TOAR?	4
e. What licenses will you grandfather?	4
f. If I do not already hold a license as OUTV, but am a master, mate, etc	5
g. How can I document my towing experience?	6
h. What if I am already training for a towing-vessel license?	6
i. What if I already hold an Oceans endorsement?	6
2. New Licenses for Towing Vessels	6
a. What if I already hold a license?	7
b. What are the specific licensing requirements for towing vessels?	7
c. What license do I need to operate towing vessels?	7
d. How old must I be to hold a towing license?	8
e. What is the training procedure for obtaining a towing-vessel license?	9
Figure: License Progression	9
f. What is a TOAR?	10
g. How do I document proficiency?	10
h. How much of the TOAR must a candidate complete?	12
i. How do I obtain a license for towing vessels if I don't have towing experience?	13
j. How do I obtain an Oceans endorsement?	13
3. Towing-Vessel Licensing in General	14
a. What will I need to renew my license as master of towing vessels?	14
b. How do I qualify as a designated examiner?	15
c. What is the difference between "mate" and "pilot" of towing vessels?	15
d. What issues of recency does this rule add?	15
e. What new examinations are required?	16
f. What route examinations are required?	16
Figure: Example for Exam Requirement for Route Extension	16
g. Are there tonnage restrictions on the towing vessel license?	16
h. What is a Limited Local Area Route?	16
i. Can I move from towing vessels to other types of vessels?	18
j. Were there changes to the pilotage rules?	18
k. Can my assistance-towing experience count toward a towing license?	18
4. Manning	18
a. What is the manning required for towing vessels after May 21, 2006?	18
b. What is the manning required for towing vessels between May 20, 2001, and May 21, 2006?	18
5. STCW	19
a. Who must comply with STCW on towing vessels?	19
b. What level of compliance is necessary for officers on seagoing towing vessels?	19

1. Existing Licenses for Towing Vessels. This part applies to any licensed mariner operating towing vessels before May 21, 2001.
 - a. Is my existing license valid on towing vessels after May 20, 2001?
 - (1) Yes, your license is valid as currently issued until its first renewal on or after May 21, 2001.
 - (2) We will “grandfather” your authority for most licenses, where you prove towing service.
 - (3) See the following chart, from 46 CFR 10.210, to determine whether you will be eligible for a license for service on towing vessels at your next renewal.

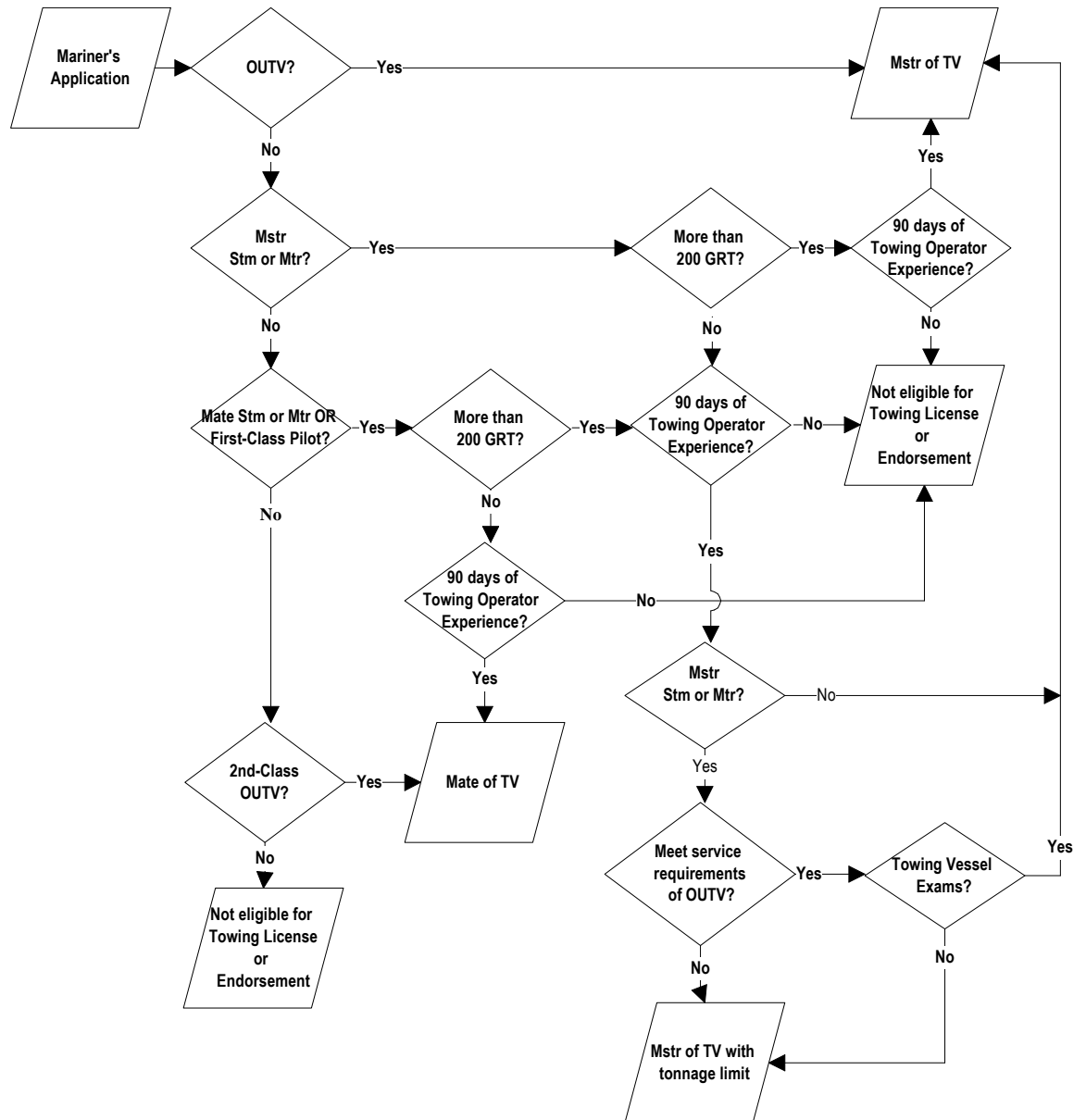


Figure10.210 ELIGIBILITY FOR TOWING LICENSES

b. Will you grandfather my current license or authority for towing vessels?

(1) Yes, at your next regular renewal or upgrade on or after May 21, 2001; if –

- (a) you hold a license as OUTV, we will issue you a license as master of towing vessels; or
 - (b) you hold a license as 2nd-Class OUTV, we will issue you a license as mate (pilot) of towing vessels; or
 - (c) you are operating towing vessels under equivalency through 46 CFR 15.910, in effect before May 21, 2001, and you provide written evidence of 90 days of service operating towing vessels, we will issue you a license as master of towing vessels.
- (2) A master of inspected self-propelled vessels endorsed for not more than 200 GRT is limited to the tonnage restriction on the face of the license. If the mariner has more than 24 months of towing-vessel experience and passes the OUTV exams, the license as master of towing vessels will be issued without tonnage limitation.
 - (3) We will endorse your new license with each route that you have on your current license. If your license bears an endorsement for Oceans, the new license will bear one for Oceans and Western Rivers and will authorize service on all waters considered subordinate to Oceans (Near-Coastal and Great Lakes – inland.)
 - (4) Master of towing vessels endorsed for Oceans or Near-Coastal waters is limited to vessels of not more than 200 GRT.
 - (5) You are not eligible for a towing vessel endorsement if –
 - (a) you are eligible under a previous equivalency but do not have 90 days of towing experience under the authority of your license before the first renewal or upgrade of your license on or after May 21, 2001; or
 - (b) you are operating towing vessels in violation of the laws on manning either in 46 U.S.C. 8904 or in rules issued under its authority.
- c. How do I renew my OUTV License?
- (1) For your first renewal after May 20, 2001, you must –
 - (a) Meet the general requirements in 46 CFR 10.209 (a);
 - (b) Meet the fitness requirement in 46 CFR 10.209 (b);
 - (c) Meet the professional requirements of 46 CFR 10.209 (c)(1) and (2);
 - (d) The intent of 46 CFR 10.209(c)(6) is to require documentary evidence that demonstrates the officer is participating in ongoing training and drills, and will be required for renewals after the initial renewal following May 20, 2001.

Enclosure (1) to NVIC **4-01**

- (e) Provide written evidence of a satisfactory physical examination completed within 12 months of the date of the application as required in 46 CFR 10.209(d);
 - (f) Comply with 46 CFR 10.209 (h) on chemical testing;
 - (g) Comply with any check of criminal records required by 46 CFR 10.209(i);
 - (h) Consent to the NDR check required by 46 CFR 10.209(j); and
 - (i) For a license for Oceans or Near-Coastal routes, meet the requirements on STCW of 46 CFR 10.209 (k).
- (2) At the first renewal after May 20, 2001, you must provide proof of acceptable service. If you cannot, you must show evidence through a completed TOAR for the routes you hold or pass the open book renewal exercise.

d. What is a TOAR?

- (1) It is a document that lists tasks to be performed or explained (as appropriate) in the presence of a designated examiner.
- (2) You may use the sample TOARs [Enclosures 3, 4, 5, and 6] to document proficiency of an apprentice mate (steersman). You may use them to document proficiency without being approved before they are used. If you elect to use a TOAR other than one of the samples, you must submit it to the National Maritime Center for approval.

e. What licenses will you grandfather?

- (1) OUTV, to master of towing vessels
- (2) Master, Steam or Motor Vessels

TONNAGE LIMIT MORE THAN 200 GRT	OUTV ENDORSEMENT¹	TOWING EXPERIENCE²	TOWING SERVICE LENGTH MORE THAN 24 MONTHS	GRANDFATHERED
YES	YES			YES
YES	NO	YES		YES
YES	NO	NO		NO
NO	YES			YES
NO	NO	YES	YES	YES ^{3,4}
NO	NO	YES	NO	YES ⁵
NO	NO	NO		NO

¹ On the License, or the candidate previously held license as OUTV or as Master Freight and Towing

² At least 90 days as operator of towing vessels

³ If the candidate passes OUTV exam, master of towing vessel with no tonnage limitation.

⁴ Limited to the tonnage of the license without exam

⁵ Limited to the tonnage of the license

(3) 2nd-Class OUTV, to mate (pilot) of towing vessels

(4) Mate, Steam or Motor Vessels

TONNAGE LIMIT MORE THAN 200 GRT	OUTV ENDORSEMENT ⁶	TOWING EXPERIENCE ⁷	GRANDFATHERED
YES	YES		YES – MASTER OF TOWING VESSELS
YES	NO	YES	YES – MASTER OF TOWING VESSELS
YES	NO	NO	NO
NO	YES		YES – MASTER OR MATE (PILOT) OF TOWING VESSELS
NO	NO	YES	YES ⁸ – MATE (PILOT) OF TOWING VESSELS
NO	NO	NO	NO

f. If I do not already hold a license as OUTV, but hold one as master or mate of inspected, self-propelled vessels or as first-class pilot with towing experience, what must I do to apply?

- (1) Whatever license you hold, you must meet the requirements of paragraph 1.c., above.
- (2) If you have 90 days of towing service and are renewing your license on or after May 21, 2001, then you must document that service to receive a towing endorsement on your license.
- (3) If you hold a license as master of inspected self-propelled vessels of 200 GRT or less, and are renewing your license and desire an endorsement for towing vessels, we will issue you a license as master of towing vessels limited to the tonnage on the face of your current license, unless you meet the requirements of 1.f.(6) below.
- (4) If you hold a license as mate of inspected self-propelled vessels of 200 GRT or less, we will issue you a license as mate (pilot) of towing vessels.
- (5) If you hold a license as master or mate of inspected self-propelled vessels of greater than 200 GRT, we will issue you a license as master of towing vessels.
- (6) If you hold a license as master of inspected self-propelled vessels of 200 GRT or less and have 24 months or more of experience operating towing vessels, we will remove your tonnage restriction when you successfully complete the following exams administered by the Coast Guard:

(a) Rules of the Road.

⁶ If OUTV Endorsement, then grandfathered as master of towing vessel; If 2nd-Class OUTV, then grandfathered as mate (pilot) of towing vessel

⁷ At least 90 days as operator or 2nd-Class OUTV.

⁸ Limited to the tonnage of the license.

- (b) Navigation and Chart Navigation (if the current license is limited to vessels of less than 100 GRT).
 - (c) Deck and Navigation (general) and Deck Safety.
 - (7) If you have no towing experience, you must comply with section 2, 'New Licenses for Towing Vessels' below.
 - g. How can I document my towing experience?
 - (1) (a) You must provide a letter of service from a towing company [46 CFR 10.211(a)]; or
 - (b) You must provide a letter of service from a licensed officer attesting to the towing service. The licensed officer confirming the validity of its contents must sign it. He or she, by signing it, confirms that its contents are true and accurate [46 CFR 10.211(a)]; or
 - (2) The Coast Guard measures qualifying service in months and days as defined in 46 CFR 10.103. Nothing in the rules in effect after May 20, 2001, or this Circular, changes the method of counting service.
 - h. What if I am already training for a towing-vessel license?
 - (1) Until May 21, 2004, a mariner, whose service or training began before May 21, 2001, may qualify for a license as master of towing vessels under the rules for licensing OUTVs in effect before May 21, 2001.
 - (2) A mariner, whose service or training began on or after May 21, 2001, must qualify under the rules for licensing officers of towing vessels in effect on or after May 21, 2001.
 - i. What if I already hold an Oceans endorsement?
 - (1) If you already hold a license as "Master of Steam or Motor Vessels of not more than 200 gross tons (restricted to uninspected towing vessels) upon Oceans and Operator of Uninspected Towing Vessels Great Lakes - Inland," when the licensing rules changed in 1987, your license, if not previously upgraded, would now read:

Master of Towing Vessels upon Oceans and Western Rivers.
 - (2) You may renew your current STCW certificate, but any increase in tonnage authority entails full compliance with STCW as amended in 1995 or later.
2. New Licenses for Towing Vessels. This part applies to any mariner who began service or training on towing vessels after May 20, 2001, and to any other officer seeking a license as officer of towing vessels after May 20, 2001.

a. What if I already hold a license?

- (1) Follow the policy set forth in section 1, 'Existing Licenses for Towing Vessels' above.
- (2) If your experience does not include towing service before May 21, 2001, continue in this section.

b. What are the specific requirements to qualify for a license for towing vessels?

- (1) A towing vessel of at least 26 feet in length, as measured from end to end over the deck, must be operated by a mariner licensed to operate that type of vessel in the particular geographic area [46 U.S.C. 8904(a)] unless it is a vessel of less than 200 GRT involved in the offshore industry exploiting minerals and oil [46 U.S.C. 8905 (b)].
- (2) You must serve on towing vessels. See the abbreviated table below.

<i>License</i>	<i>Total Service</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Time on Route</i>	<i>TOAR or Training Program required</i>	<i>Exam</i>	<i>Days of Observation for New Route</i>
<i>Master of towing vessels</i>	<i>48 mo.</i>	<i>Service as mate (pilot)</i>	<i>90 days</i>	<i>NO²</i>	<i>NO²</i>	<i>90 days for increase in the scope of the license.</i>
		<i>18 mos¹</i>				
<i>Mate (pilot) of towing vessels</i>	<i>30 mo.</i>	<i>Service as Apprentice Mate</i>	<i>90 days</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO²</i>	
		<i>12 mo.</i>				
<i>Apprentice Mate (Steersman)</i>	<i>18 mo.</i>	<i>Service on towing vessels 12 mo.</i>	<i>90 days</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>90 days on any route</i>

1 Up to 180 days of harbor assist can be credited.

2. TOAR or approved course and Limited Exam may be required if not previously completed for route.

- (3) You must complete the required examinations.
- (4) You must complete a TOAR and the associated training.

c. What license do I need to operate towing vessels?

- (1) You may operate towing vessels under the restrictions of your current license, until the first renewal of your license on or after May 21, 2001.
- (2) Before May 21, 2001, and until the first renewal after that date, the following licenses are valid for a mariner serving as master on towing vessels:
 - (a) OUTV.

- (b) Master of inspected self-propelled vessels, within any restrictions on the face of the license.
 - (c) Mate or first-class pilot of inspected self-propelled vessels of more than 200 GRT within any restrictions on the face of the license.
- (3) Before May 21, 2001, and until the first renewal after that date, the following licenses are valid for a mariner serving as mate (pilot) of towing vessels:
 - (a) Those listed in paragraph 2.c.(2) above; and
 - (b) Mate or first-class pilot of inspected self-propelled vessels of not more than 200 GRT within any route restrictions on the face of the license.
 - (c) 2nd-Class OUTV.
- (4) On or after May 21, 2006, and after any license transaction following any license upgrade or renewal, an officer operating towing vessels must hold any of the following licenses or endorsements:
 - (a) Master of towing vessels.
 - (b) Master of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 GRT with a completed TOAR.
 - (c) Mate (pilot) of towing vessels.
 - (d) Mate of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 GRT with a completed TOAR (limited to serving in the capacity of mate (pilot) of towing vessels).
 - (e) Apprentice mate (steersman) (under the direct supervision of a licensed officer).
- (5) Towing vessels used in conjunction with passenger barges.
 - (a) The local OCMI determines the manning required to operate inspected vessels. The officer serving as master may hold either a license as master of inspected, self-propelled vessels, or one as master of towing vessels.
 - (b) Service gained on towing vessels operating in conjunction with passenger barges, that do not require a towing license, will not count as towing service when we are evaluating the license for upgrade.
- d. How old must I be to hold a towing license?
 - (1) You must be at least 21 years old to hold a license as master of towing vessels.
 - (2) You must be at least 19 years old to hold a license as mate (pilot) of towing vessels.
 - (3) You must be at least 18 years old to hold a license as apprentice mate (steersman).

e. What is the training procedure for obtaining a towing-vessel license?

The process to train officers of towing vessels, outlined in the rules, uses the best practices existing in the maritime, and more specifically the towing, industry. You must also (see the following chart)—

- (1) Pass the examination for apprentice mate (steersman) given by the Coast Guard; and
- (2) Either –
 - (a) Demonstrate proficiency and be evaluated by a designated examiner against published performance measures; or
 - (b) Complete an approved course.

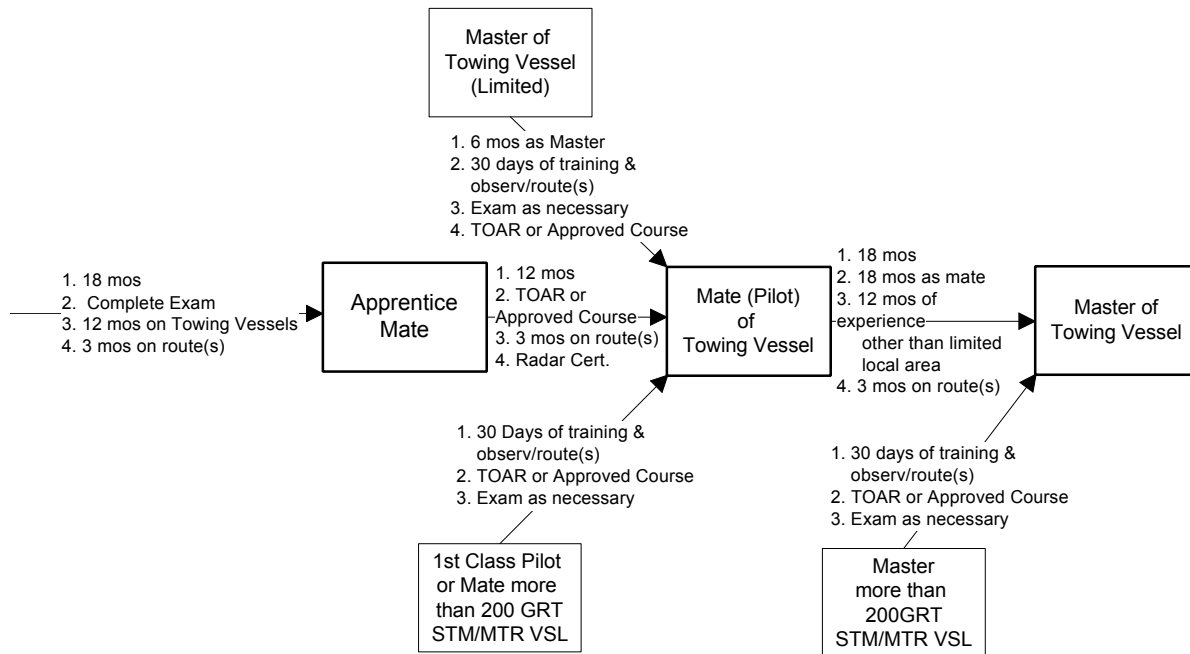


Figure: License Progression

f. What is a TOAR?

- (1) It is a document that lists tasks to be performed or explained (as appropriate), in the presence of a designated examiner.
- (2) The sample TOARs [Enclosures 3, 4, 5, and 6] may serve to document proficiency of an apprentice mate (steersman) or when required for change of route or license crossover. They may serve to document proficiency without being approved before use. If you use a TOAR other than one of the samples, you must submit it to the National Maritime Center for approval.

g. How do I document proficiency?

- (1) Document demonstration of proficiency through completion of a training course or a steersman program (which may include simulator training) approved by the Coast Guard.
 - (a) The course must satisfy 46 CFR 10.465(g), containing –
 1. Formal instruction; and
 2. Practical demonstrations of proficiency either on board a towing vessel or at a shore-side training facility before a designated examiner.
 - (b) The training must cover –
 1. Shipboard management and training;
 2. Seamanship;
 3. Navigation;
 4. Watchkeeping;
 5. Radar;
 6. Meteorology;
 7. Maneuvering and handling of towing vessels;
 8. Engine-room basics; and
 9. Emergency procedures.
 - (c) Submit training programs to NMC for review and approval under NVIC 5-95 or later valid Circular on approved courses.
- (2) You may use the TOAR to document demonstrated proficiency. See paragraph 2.f. of this section.

- (a) Your observation and assessment, documented in the TOAR, may take place over time, while on the job. A compressed “check ride” is not necessary.
- (b) The designated examiner may be a towing-vessel officer or other person who—
 - 1. Satisfies the requirements of NVIC 6-97; or,
 - 2. Meets the following criteria:
 - a. Hold a license equal to or superior to the one for which you are assessing performance.
 - b. Possess recent experience in the tasks you are assessing.
 - c. Meet one of the following criteria –
 - (1) Have received formal instruction in observation and assessment techniques; or,
 - (2) Have experience conducting assessments of competence such as experience assessing junior mates or pilots as part of a program run by a company for training apprentice mates (steersman), or as part of a safety management system.
 - 3. Requests for approval as a designated examiner are submitted to the National Maritime Center and must include a description of the mariner’s qualifications specific to the tasks to be assessed.
- (c) Towing Officer’s Assessment Record (TOAR):
 - 1. Model TOARs are enclosures (3) through (6) to this Circular.
 - 2. If a company changes elements of the TOAR, the NMC must review and approve it before use. Company-specific elements added to the end of the TOAR need not go to the NMC.
 - 3. To obtain a license as mate (pilot) of towing vessels use the following list to determine the appropriate TOAR.
 - a. If you are seeking a license as mate (pilot) of towing vessels (Western Rivers) complete the TOAR for Western Rivers.
 - b. If you are seeking a license as mate (pilot) of towing vessels (Great Lakes–Inland) complete the TOAR for Great Lakes–Inland.
 - c. If you are seek a license as mate (pilot) of towing vessels (Oceans) or (Near-Coastal waters) complete the TOAR for Near-Coastal and Oceans. If you complete the TOAR for Near Coastal and Oceans, you do not need to complete the TOAR for Great Lakes–inland waters.

- d. If you are seeking a license for a limited geographic area, such as a fleeting area or harbor, complete the Limited TOAR.
 - 4. TOARs should include essential measures of performance (which tasks or functions are necessary to perform and be observed) and, if possible, simply state the performance standards or assessment criteria (conditions that satisfy completion of the task).
 - 5. Until the assessment criteria (performance measures) are developed, designated examiners should be guided by company policy and industry practice when assessing candidates using the TOAR.
- (3) If you are renewing your license, you may satisfy 46 CFR 10.209 (c)(6)(ii) by providing the letter of service described in paragraph 1.g.(1), above. The letter must document evidence of ongoing safety training and of safe operation of vessels.
- h. How much of the TOAR must a candidate complete?
- (1) The apprentice mate (steersman) must demonstrate his or her ability to perform all the performance criteria in the TOAR before being upgraded to mate. This process will likely be gradual.
 - (2) A designated examiner must witness and sign off each performance criterion.
 - (3) Only the designated examiner can verify that the apprentice mate (steersman) is proficient in each task and duty.
 - (4) The designated examiner may mark “not applicable” tasks or duties when not assessed or required on a specific vessel as a result of a limited route. Any performance criteria not assessed must be assessed before a license’s route can increase.
 - (5) Before a license may be returned to the following mariners, they must demonstrate proficiency before designated examiners on the items within the TOARs for the routes previously held:
 - (a) Those seeking return of their licenses after administrative action against their licenses for incompetence.
 - (b) Those seeking re-issuance of licenses more than 12 months after their previous licenses expired.
 - (c) Those seeking to have continuity endorsements rescinded from inactive licenses, under 46 CFR 10.209 (g).

- i. How do I obtain a license for towing vessels if I don't have towing experience?
 - (1) A master of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 GRT may obtain authority to serve as master of towing vessels if he or she –
 - (a) Has 30 days of training and observation on towing vessels on the appropriate routes (except for Western Rivers, which requires 90 days of training and observation);
 - (b) Holds a completed TOAR or evidence of completion of a Coast Guard approved course that exhibits evidence of favorable assessment of practical demonstration of towing skills; and
 - (c) Passes any required examination.
 - (2) A mate or first-class pilot of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 GRT may obtain authority to serve as mate of towing vessels (restricted to the service presented) if he or she –
 - (a) Has 30 days of training and observation on towing vessels over the appropriate routes (except for Western Rivers, which requires 90 days of training and observation);
 - (b) Holds a completed TOAR or evidence of completion of a Coast Guard approved course that exhibits evidence of favorable assessment of practical demonstration of towing skills; and
 - (c) Passes any required examination.
 - (3) A master or mate of a self-propelled vessel of 200 GRT or less may obtain an endorsement for towing vessels through the training and assessment outlined in the regulations. This involves completing a TOAR or a Coast Guard approved course and in-service training and assessment.
- j. How do I obtain an Oceans endorsement?
 - (1) You must –
 - (a) Hold a valid firefighting certificate meeting basic and advanced criteria for training [46 CFR 10.207(f)];
 - (b) Hold an appropriate radar-observer qualification [46 CFR 10.205];
 - (c) Qualify as an able seaman [46 CFR 10.401(g)]; and
 - (d) Complete the further examination requirements for an Oceans endorsement.
 - (2) You must satisfy the STCW requirements, see section 5 of this enclosure.

- (3) You must have experience operating towing vessels seaward of the boundary line. The difference between the Oceans and the Near Coastal endorsement is the examination [46 CFR 10.910].
3. Towing-Vessel Licensing in General. This part applies to all transactions respecting licenses.
 - a. What do I need to renew my license as master of towing vessels?
 - (1) Meet the general requirements in 46 CFR 10.209 (a).
 - (2) Meet the fitness requirement in 46 CFR 10.209 (b).
 - (3) Meet the professional requirements in 46 CFR 10.209(c)(1) and (2). Documentation for sea service needs the following information –
 - (a) Service, computed in 8-hour days.
 - (b) Identification of vessel name, type, and gross tonnage or gross register tons.
 - (c) Identification of the area of operation (Western Rivers, Great Lakes - Inland, Near Coastal or Oceans). Recency on each route on the current license is not necessary.
 - (d) Statement of the position served on each vessel.
 - (4) Prove that you have either --
 - (a) Completed a practical demonstration, or
 - (b) Participated in ongoing training and drills during the validity of your license.
 1. If employed by a company in a safety management system, such as the International Safety Management (ISM) Code or the American Waterways Operators (AWO) Responsible Carrier Program, the documentation needs only a statement that the company was involved in a safety-management system.
 2. Otherwise, you must prove that the company vessels conduct regular safety training and drills.
 - (5) Provide written evidence of a satisfactory physical examination completed within 12 or fewer months of the date of application [see 46 CFR 10.209(d)];
 - (6) Meet the chemical-testing requirements for dangerous drugs in 46 CFR 10.209(h);
 - (7) Comply with any criminal-records check required by 46 CFR 10.209(i);
 - (8) Consent to the NDR check required by 46 CFR 10.209(j); and

- (9) For any license for Oceans or Near Coastal routes, satisfy 46 CFR 10.209 (k) respecting STCW.
- b. How do I qualify as a designated examiner?
 - (1) You must satisfy the requirements in NVIC 6-97; or,
 - (2) You must meet the following criteria:
 - (a) Hold a license equal or superior to the one for which you are assessing performance.
 - (b) Possess recent experience in the task you are assessing.
 - (c) Meet one of the following criteria:
 - 1. Have received formal instruction in techniques of observation and assessment.
 - 2. Have experience conducting assessments of competence such as experience assessing junior mates or pilots as part of a program run by a company for training apprentice mates (steersman), or as part of a safety management system.
 - (3) Requests for approval as a designated examiner are submitted to the National Maritime Center and must include a description of the mariner's qualification specific to the tasks to be assessed.
- c. What is the difference between "mate" and "pilot" of towing vessels?
 - (1) There is none in practice. But, on the Western Rivers, the term "mate" has historically referred to the senior deckhand on a vessel while the term "pilot" has historically referred to the individual operating a riverboat.
 - (2) The license is endorsed "mate (pilot) of towing vessels" unless the applicant specifically requests one or the other.
 - (3) When a mariner holds an endorsement as pilot and seeks one as mate or vice-versa, we will assess only an issuance fee, unless the transaction requires evaluation and examination.
- d. What issues of recency does this rule add?

None – recency remains the same as in 46 CFR 10.202(e).

e. What new examinations are required?

None, the license examinations will remain the same after the implementation date of the new rule except we will give them before our issuing the apprentice mate (steersman) license.

f. What route examinations are required?

Adding a route may not require an examination unless the new route requires further evidence of knowledge. For example:

If you are:	And you are looking to obtain a master of towing vessel upon:	Then you
A master of towing vessels upon Near Coastal or Great Lakes—Inland Waters	Oceans	Must take an Examination for Celestial Navigation, etc.
A master of towing vessels upon Oceans	The Western Rivers	Will not have to take an examination.
A master of towing vessels upon Near-Coastal Waters	Great Lakes—Inland Waters	Will not have to take an examination

- (2) Rules of the Road. You must take the exam on rules of the road to upgrade a license in some instances if it has been more than 12 months since your last license transaction.

g. Are there tonnage restrictions on the towing vessel license?

- (1) In general no; however, some officers' licenses converted under grandfathering may have tonnage limitations included. Such tonnage limitations would be removed when the officer meets the examination and experience requirements of 46 CFR 10.210.
- (2) You may not use the license as master or mate of towing vessels on inspected vessels, regardless of tonnage. In addition, a towing vessel of 200 GRT or over, beyond the boundary line, must be operated by an officer holding a license as master or mate of inspected self-propelled vessels of appropriate tonnage, with the master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels endorsement, or hold a completed TOAR
- (3) You must hold a valid STCW certificate if you serve on a seagoing towing vessel 200 GRT or more, or on any towing vessel operating on international voyages.

h. What is a Limited Local Area Route?

- (1) It is a specific waterway or section of one. Applying for a limited local area route provides the option of taking a simplified or limited examination. This recognizes

that towing vessels do not always provide an opportunity to gain extensive experience on a specific route. In such cases a limited examination and TOAR tailored specifically to the service and geographic area will suffice.

- (2) Limited local area routes may not substitute for Near-Coastal routes or Oceans routes.
- (3) When requested, OCMI's should liberally interpret their authority to issue licenses with limited local area routes. For example, if a master of towing vessels, upon Western Rivers, wants to operate on the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, but not take the entire exam for inland towing vessels, the OCMI could consider the following criteria and issue a limited local area route:
 - (a) Is the length of the route reasonable; and
 - (b) Is operation consistent with the officer's previous experience?
- (4) The OCMI may modify an inland exam by deleting inappropriate questions and may issue an inland endorsement with appropriate limitations, following the period of observation and training listed in 46 CFR Table 10.464-3.
- (5) An example for limited local area for towing vessels as used in the Eighth Coast Guard District
 - (a) Limited Area [OUTV] Western Rivers for less than 10 miles.
 - 1. 361XX Deck General (questions inappropriate to the limited area eliminated).
 - 2. 066XX Navigation Rules (questions inappropriate to the limited area eliminated).
 - 3. Map sketch of area of operations (showing major landmarks, outline of river, hazards, and aids to navigation).
 - 4. 072X4 Navigation General (questions inappropriate to the limited area eliminated).
 - (b) Limited Area [OUTV] Western Rivers for areas more than 10 miles but less than 100 miles.
 - 1. 361XX Deck General.
 - 2. 066XX Navigation Rules.
 - 3. 07501 Navigation Problems.
 - 4. 072X4 Navigation General.

i. Can I move from towing vessels to other types of vessels?

- (1) Yes. The rules leave in place the progression from towing service to service on other types of vessels.
- (2) When we are evaluating service for license advancement, we would count a person holding a license as Operator of Uninspected Towing Vessels (OUTV) as a master of towing vessels. We would also count service under the license as OUTV, until May 21, 2001, as that of master of towing vessels.

j. Were there changes to the pilotage rules?

Nothing within the recent rulemakings on towing vessels changes the requirements for pilotage within 46 CFR Part 10, subpart G, or the manning requirements in 46 CFR 15.812.

k. Can my assistance-towing service count toward a towing license?

No, the duties in assistance towing are not comparable to those on an inspected or uninspected towing vessel, and this service may not count toward the service time necessary for master or mate (pilot) of towing vessels.

4. Manning. This part describes the manning required for towing vessels.

a. What is the manning required for a towing vessel after May 21, 2006?

- (1) One master of towing vessels or master of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 GRT holding a completed TOAR.
- (2) If the vessel requires a second licensed officer, another officer holding one of the following licenses:
 - (a) A license listed in 4.a.(1).
 - (b) Mate (pilot) of towing vessels.
 - (c) Mate of inspected self-propelled vessels, greater than 200 GRT, holding a completed TOAR.

b. What is the manning required for a towing vessel between May 20, 2001, and May 21, 2006?

- (1) One officer designated to be the master and holding one of the following licenses:
 - (a) Master of towing vessels (master of towing vessels (Limited) when operating solely within a local limited area);
 - (b) OUTV;

- (c) Master of inspected self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the officer's license, while holding a completed TOAR;
 - (d) Master of inspected self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the officer's license; or
 - (e) Mate or pilot of inspected self-propelled vessels with a license whose tonnage limitation is greater than 200 GRT (Domestic service only).
 - (2) Another officer, if required, holding one of the following licenses:
 - (a) A license listed in 4.b.(1), above;
 - (b) Mate (pilot) of towing vessels;
 - (c) 2nd-Class OUTV;
 - (d) Mate of inspected self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the officer's license, while holding a completed TOAR; or
 - (e) Mate of inspected self-propelled vessels within any restrictions on the officer's license.
5. International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW)
This part briefly describes the requirements of STCW for officers on towing vessels.
- a. Who must comply with STCW on towing vessels?

Each officer on seagoing towing vessels must comply with STCW.
 - b. What level of compliance is necessary for officers on seagoing towing vessels?
 - (1) The following answers are general answers to the requirements on STCW. Specific information appears in other Circulars about STCW or is available from the local REC.
 - (2) Each officer on international voyages must fully comply with STCW, and hold a license authorizing service on inspected self-propelled vessels of appropriate tonnage, and the accompanying STCW certificate.
 - (3) Each officer on any seagoing towing vessels over 200 GRT must fully comply with STCW and hold a license authorizing service on inspected self-propelled vessels of appropriate tonnage, and the accompanying STCW certificate.
 - (4) Each officer on near coastal towing vessels of less than 200 GRT must meet all licensing requirements and have his or her license endorsed for STCW. No STCW certificate is necessary.

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Master Of Towing Vessels (Oceans) (Near Coastal)

For mariners who began service or training after May 21, 2001

Name _____ Date _____
SSN _____ REC _____

	General Requirements	Reference	Eval.
1	Initials & signatures on application		
2	Explanation, if required		
3	Social security card		
4	Citizen of the U.S.	46 CFR 10.201(e)	
5	Minimum Age 21	46 CFR 10.201(f)	
6	Fingerprint cards (original issue only)	46 CFR 10.201(h)	
7	NDR	46 CFR 10.201(i)	
8	Physical Examination	46 CFR 10.207(e)	
9	SAMHSA drug screen	46 CFR 10.202(i)	
10	Firefighting Certificate (basic and advanced) (Oceans only)	46 CFR 10.207(f)	
11	Radar Certificate Oceans:	46 CFR 15.815/10.480 46 CFR 10.401(g)	
12	MMD with AB endorsement (Oceans only)	46 CFR 10.401(g)	
13	STCW Certificate	46 CFR 10.202(j-k)	
14	Fees	46 CFR 10.109	
	Evaluation		
	Exam		
	Issue		
15	Recency	46 CFR 10.202(e)	
16	Service Requirements	46 CFR 10.464	
	If, Holder of Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels	Service	
	1440 days total service, including		
	540 days as Mate (Pilot) of towing vessel		
	360 days as Mate (Pilot) on other than Limited, AND		
	90 days in ocean/near coastal		
	If, Holder of Master > 200 GRT STM/MTR		
	30 days training & observation/routes		
	TOAR or approved course		
	Note: License endorsement is not required, see cite.	46 CFR 10.464(d)	
	If Holder of Master Towing Vessels (Harbor Assist)		
	360 days of service as mate (pilot) of Towing Vessels, WITH		
	90 days in Ocean/near coastal		
	TOAR or approved course		
	Examinations		

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Sample license endorsement:

Master of Towing Vessels Upon Oceans / Near Coastal Waters. For Domestic Voyages Only, The Holder of This License Meets The STCW 1995 Regulations Without Further Endorsement.

Master Of Towing Vessels, (Oceans) (Near Coastal)⁽¹⁾

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD.	DATE	2 nd score	MOD	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD (2) (4)	90%	Int'l & Inl: 065								
NAV – PROBLEMS (OCEANS ONLY)	80%	078								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	073								
NAV – GENERAL (3)	70%	0721								
DECK / SAFETY (2)(4)	70%	341								

Notes:

1. An Applicant advances from Mate (Pilot) to Master of Towing Vessels on sea service alone.
2. Applicants holding a license as Master of Towing Vessels, Great Lakes and Inland, may have the scope of their license increased to Near Coastal by successfully completing a professional examination consisting of modules 065XX and 341XX.
3. Applicants holding a license as Master, NMT 100 GRT need not be administered the Navigation General Module 072X1.
4. Applicants holding a license as Master, NMT 200 GRT may be issued this license upon successfully completing modules 065XX and 341XX

Mate (Pilot) Of Towing Vessels (Oceans)(Near Coastal)

For mariners who began service or training after May 21, 2001

Name _____ Date _____
SSN _____ REC _____

	General Requirements	Reference	Eval.
1	Initials & signatures on application		
2	Explanation, if required		
3	Social security card		
4	Citizen of the U.S.	46 CFR 10.201(e)	
5	Minimum age 19	46 CFR 10.201(f)	
6	Fingerprint cards (original issue only)	46 CFR 10.201(h)	
7	NDR	46 CFR 10.201(i)	
8	Physical Examination	46 CFR 10.207(e)	
9	SAMHSA drug screen	46 CFR 10.202(i)	
10	Firefighting Certificate (basic and advanced) (Oceans only)	46 CFR 10.207(f)	
11	Radar Certificate Oceans:	46 CFR 15.815/10.480 46 CFR 10.401(g)	
12	MMD with AB endorsement (Oceans only)	46 CFR 10.401(g)	
13	STCW Certificate	46 CFR 10.202(j-k)	
14	Fees	46 CFR 10.109	
	Evaluation		
	Exam		
	Issue		
15	Recency	46 CFR 10.202(e)	
16	Service Requirements	46 CFR 10.465	
	If, Holder of Apprentice Mate (Steersman) of Towing Vessels	Days of Service	
	900 days total service, including		
	360 days of service as Apprentice Mate (steersman), AND		
	90 days in ocean or near coastal waters		
	TOAR or approved course		
	If, Holder of Mate > 200 GRT STM/MTR OR 1st Class Pilot		
	30 days training & observation on route		
	TOAR or approved course		
	Note: License endorsement is not required, see cite.	46 CFR 10.465(e)	
	If Holder of Master Towing Vessels (Harbor Assist or Limited)		
	30 days of training & observation on route		
	Limited exam		
	TOAR or approved course		

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Sample license Endorsement:

Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels Upon Oceans / Near Coastal Waters. For Domestic Voyages Only, The Holder Of This License Meets The STCW 1995 Regulations Without Further Endorsement.

MATE (PILOT) – OCEANS

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD	90%	INT&ID 065								
NAV – PROBLEMS	80%	078								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	073								
NAV – GENERAL	70%	0721								
DECK / SAFETY	70%	341								

MATE (PILOT) – NEAR-COASTAL

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD (1)(3)	90%	INT&ID 065								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	073								
NAV – GENERAL (2)	70%	0721								
DECK / SAFETY (1)(3)	70%	341								

Notes:

1. Applicants holding a license as Mate of Towing Vessels, Great Lakes and Inland, may have the scope of their license increased to Near Coastal by successfully completing a TOAR and a professional examination consisting of modules 065XX and 341XX in addition to the service requirements.
2. Applicants holding a license as Mate, Not More Than 100 GRT need not be administered the Navigation General Module 072X1.
3. Applicants holding a license as Mate, Not More Than 200 GRT may be issued this license upon successfully completing modules 065XX and 341XX.

Apprentice Mate (Steersman) Of Towing Vessels

For mariners who began service or training after May 21, 2001

Name _____ Date _____
 SSN _____ REC _____

	General Requirements	Reference	Eval.
1	Initials & signatures on application		
2	Explanation, if required		
3	Social security card		
4	Citizen of the U.S.	46 CFR 10.201(e)	
5	Minimum Age 18	46 CFR 10.201(f)	
6	Fingerprint cards (original issue only)	46 CFR 10.201(h)	
7	NDR	46 CFR 10.201(i)	
8	Physical Examination	46 CFR 10.207(e)	
9	SAMHSA drug screen	46 CFR 10.202(i)	
10	Firefighting-N/A		
11	Radar Certificate-N/A	46 CFR 10.205	
12	AB-N/A	46 CFR 10.401(g)	
13	STCW Certificate (N/A Regulation II/4.3)	46 CFR 10.202(j-k)	
14	Fees	46 CFR 10.109	
	Evaluation		
	Exam		
	Issue		
15	Recency	46 CFR 10.202(e)	
16	Service Requirements (service began AFTER May 21, 2001)	46 CFR 10.466	
	540 days of total service, including		
	360 days of service on towing vessels, AND		
	90 days for each particular route		

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Sample license endorsement:

Apprentice Mate (Steersman) of Towing Vessels Upon Oceans / Near Coastal Waters / Great Lakes - Inland Waters / Western Rivers.

Note: COLREG notation on GL/Inl license if tested only on inland rules.

With the exception of Western Rivers, subordinate routes are not listed.

APPRENTICE MATE (STEERSMAN) – OCEANS

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD	90%	Int'l & Inl 065								
NAV – PROBLEMS	80%	078								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	073								
NAV – GENERAL	70%	0721								
DECK / SAFETY	70%	341								

APPRENTICE MATE (STEERSMAN) – NEAR-COASTAL

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD	90%	Int'l & Inl: 065								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	073								
NAV – GENERAL	70%	0721								
DECK / SAFETY	70%	341								

APPRENTICE MATE (STEERSMAN) - GL - INLAND ONLY

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD	90%	Inl: 066 Or Int'l & Inl: 065								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	073								
NAV – GENERAL	70%	0721								
DECK / SAFETY	70%	351								

Note: Licenses issued for Great Lakes & Inland routes based on an inland rules exam, will have the COLREGS notation on the license.

APPRENTICE MATE (STEERSMAN) – WESTERN RIVERS (INLAND RULES)

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD	90%	INLD 066								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	075								
NAV – GENERAL	70%	0724								
DECK / SAFETY	70%	361								

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Master Of Towing Vessels (Great Lakes - Inland) (Western Rivers)

For mariners who began service or training after May 21, 2001

Name _____ Date _____
SSN _____ REC _____

	General Requirements	Reference	Eval.
1	Initials & signatures on application		
2	Explanation, if required		
3	Social security card		
4	Citizen of the U.S.	46 CFR 10.201(e)	
5	Minimum Age 21	46 CFR 10.201(f)	
6	Fingerprint cards (original issue only)	46 CFR 10.201(h)	
7	NDR	46 CFR 10.201(i)	
8	Physical Examination	46 CFR 10.207(e)	
9	SAMHSA drug screen	46 CFR 10.202(i)	
10	Radar Certificate	46 CFR 15.815/10.480	
11	Fees	46 CFR 10.109	
	Evaluation		
	Exam		
	Issue		
12	Recency	46 CFR 10.202(e)	
13	Service Requirements	46 CFR 10.464-1	
	If, Holder of Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels	Days of Service	
	1440 days total service, including		
	540 days as Mate (Pilot) of towing vessel		
	360 days as Mate (Pilot) on other than Harbor Assist, AND		
	90 days on Great Lakes/Inland /Western Rivers		
	If, Holder of Master > 200 GRT STM/MTR OR		
	30 days training & observation/routes		
	TOAR or approved course		
	If Holder of Master Towing Vessels (Harbor Assist)		
	360 days of service as mate (pilot) of Towing Vessels, WITH		
	90 days on Great Lakes/Inland/Rivers/Western Rivers		
	TOAR or approved course		

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Sample license endorsement:

Master of Towing Vessels Upon Great Lakes - Inland Waters / Western Rivers

Note: COLREG notation on GL/Inl license if tested on inland rules only.

MASTER - GL - INLAND or INLAND RULES ⁽¹⁾

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD (2)	90%	Inl: 066 Or Int'l & Inl: 065								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	073								
NAV – GENERAL	70%	0721								
DECK / SAFETY (2)	70%	351								

Note

1. An Applicant advances from Mate (Pilot) to Master of Towing Vessels on sea service alone. No need to administer exam.
2. A Master NMT 500 GRT, GL & I, or 1st Class Pilot, must only take Deck & Navigation General – Safety (351XX) and possibly take Rules of the Road (066XX, 065XX).

Note: Licenses issued for Great Lakes and Inland routes based on an Inland rules exam, will have the COLREGS notation on the license.

MASTER – WR - INLAND RULES

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD (1)	90%	Inl: 066								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	075								
NAV – GENERAL	70%	0724								
DECK / SAFETY (1)	70%	361								

Note

- 1 A Master NMT 500 GRT, GL & I, & WR or 1st Class Pilot, must only take Deck & Navigation General – Safety (361XX) and possibly take Rules of the Road (066XX).

**Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels
(Great Lakes - Inland) (Western Rivers)**

For mariners who began service or training after May 21, 2001

Name _____ Date _____
SSN _____ REC _____

	General Requirements	Reference	Eval.
1	Initials & signatures on application		
2	Explanation, if required		
3	Social security card		
4	Citizen of the U.S.	46 CFR 10.201(e)	
5	Minimum age 19	46 CFR 10.201(f)	
6	Fingerprint cards (original issue only)	46 CFR 10.201(h)	
7	NDR	46 CFR 10.201(i)	
8	Physical Examination	46 CFR 10.207(e)	
9	SAMHSA drug screen	46 CFR 10.202(i)	
10	Radar Certificate	46 CFR 15.815/10.480	
11	Fees	46 CFR 10.109	
	Evaluation		
	Exam		
	Issue		
12	Recency	46 CFR 10.202(e)	
13	Service Requirements	46 CFR 10.465	
	If, Holder of Apprentice Mate (Steersman) of Towing Vessels	Days of Service	
	900 days total service, including		
	360 days as Apprentice Mate (Steersman), AND		
	90 days on route, AND		
	TOAR or approved course		
	If, Holder of Mate > 200 GRT STM/MTR OR 1st Class Pilot	46 CFR 10.465(e)	
	30 days training & observation (90 days for WR)		
	TOAR or approved course		
	Note: License endorsement is not required, see cite.		
	If Holder of Master Towing Vessels (Harbor Assist or Limited)		
	360 days of service as mate (pilot) of Towing Vessels, WITH		
	30 days on Great Lakes & Inland / 90 days Western Rivers		
	TOAR or approved course		
	If Holder of Mate(Pilot) Towing Vessels (Limited)		
	900 days total service, including		
	360 days as Apprentice Mate (Steersman), AND		
	90 days on route, AND		
	TOAR or approved course		

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Sample license endorsement:

Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels Upon Great Lakes - Inland Waters / Western Rivers

Note: COLREG notation on GL/Inl license if tested only on inland rules.

MATE (PILOT) – GREAT LAKES - INLAND

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD	90%	Inl: 066 or Int'l & Inl: 065								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	073								
NAV – GENERAL	70%	0721								
DECK / SAFETY	70%	351								

Note

- 1 In order for a Mate (Pilot), GL & I (Limited) to upgrade to a Mate (Pilot) GL & I, they must take all modules listed above.
- 2 Licenses issued for Great Lakes and Inland routes based on an Inland rules exam, will have the COLREGS notation on the license.

MATE (PILOT) – WESTERN RIVERS

EXAM MODULE	%	MOD. #	DATE	1 st score	MOD. #	DATE	2 nd score	MOD. #	DATE	3 rd score
RULES OF THE ROAD	90%	Inl: 066								
NAV – PROBLEMS	90%	075								
NAV – GENERAL	70%	0724								
DECK / SAFETY	70%	361								

Note: In order for a Mate (Pilot), Western Rivers (Limited) to upgrade to a Mate (Pilot) Western Rivers, they must take all modules listed above.

Master Of Towing Vessel (Limited/Harbor Assist)
(Great Lakes - Inland) (Western Rivers)

For mariners who began service or training after May 21, 2001

Name _____ Date _____
 SSN _____ REC _____

	General Requirements	Reference	Eval.
1	Initials & signatures on application		
2	Explanation, if required		
3	Social security card		
4	Citizen of the U.S.	46 CFR 10.201(e)	
5	Minimum Age 21	46 CFR 10.201(f)	
6	NDR	46 CFR 10.201(i)	
7	Physical Examination	46 CFR 10.207(e)	
8	SAMHSA drug screen	46 CFR 10.202(i)	
9	Radar Certificate	46 CFR 15.815/10.480	
10	Fees	46 CFR 10.109	
	Evaluation		
	Exam		
	Issue		
11	Recency	46 CFR 10.202(e)	
12	Service Requirements	46 CFR 10.464-1	
	If, Holder of Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels (Limited)	Service	
	1080 days total service, including		
	360 days as Mate (Pilot) of towing vessel (limited), with		
	90 days on particular route		

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Sample license endorsement:

Master of Towing Vessels (Limited) Upon Great Lakes - Inland Waters / Western Rivers on the... (specify restricted route)

Note: Limited local examination.

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**Mate (Pilot) Of Towing Vessel (Limited),
(Great Lakes - Inland) (Western Rivers)**

For mariners who began service or training after May 21, 2001

Name _____ Date _____
SSN _____ REC _____

	General Requirements	Reference	Eval.
1	Initials & signatures on application		
2	Explanation, if required		
3	Social security card		
4	Citizen of the U.S.	46 CFR 10.201(e)	
5	Minimum age 19	46 CFR 10.201(f)	
6	Fingerprint cards (original issue only)	46 CFR 10.201(h)	
7	NDR	46 CFR 10.201(i)	
8	Physical Examination	46 CFR 10.207(e)	
9	SAMHSA drug screen	46 CFR 10.202(i)	
10	Radar Certificate	46 CFR 15.815/10.480	
11	Fees	46 CFR 10.109	
	Evaluation		
	Exam		
	Issue		
12	Recency	46 CFR 10.202(e)	
13	Service Requirements	46 CFR 10.464-1	
	If, Apprentice Mate (Steersman) of Towing Vessels (Limited)	Service	
	720 days total service, including		
	180 days as Apprentice Mate (Steersman), AND		
	Approved course OR TOAR		
	Examination only if change in route or COLREGS		

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Sample license endorsement:

Mate (Pilot) of Towing Vessels (Limited) Upon Great Lakes - Inland Waters / Western Rivers

Note: COLREG notation on GL/Inl license if tested only on inland rules.

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Apprentice Mate (Steersman) Of Towing Vessels (Limited)
(Great Lakes - Inland) (Western Rivers)

For mariners who began service or training after May 21, 2001

Name _____ Date _____
 SSN _____ REC _____

	General Requirements	Reference	Eval.
1	Initials & signatures on application		
2	Explanation, if required		
3	Social security card		
4	Citizen of the U.S.	46 CFR 10.201(e)	
5	Minimum Age 18	46 CFR 10.201(f)	
6	Fingerprint cards (original issue only)	46 CFR 10.201(h)	
7	NDR	46 CFR 10.201(i)	
8	Physical Examination	46 CFR 10.207(e)	
9	SAMHSA drug screen	46 CFR 10.202(i)	
10	Firefighting-N/A	46 CFR 10.207(f)	
11	Radar Certificate-N/A	46 CFR 10.205	
12	AB-N/A	46 CFR 10.401(g)	
13	STCW Certificate (N/A Regulation II/4.3)	46 CFR 10.202(j-k)	
14	Fees	46 CFR 10.109	
	Evaluation		
	Exam		
	Issue		
15	Recency	46 CFR 10.202(e)	
16	Service Requirements (service began AFTER May 21, 2001)	46 CFR 10.466	
	540 days of total service, including		
	360 days of service on towing vessels, AND		
	90 days for each particular route		

Evaluator _____ Date _____

Exams: Limited local examinations, 46 CFR 10.901(b).

Sample license endorsement:

Apprentice Mate (Steersman) of Towing Vessels (Limited) Upon Great Lakes - Inland Waters / Western Rivers on the... (specify restricted route).

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RENEWAL OF MASTER, MATE OR OPERATOR

For first renewal after May 21, 2001 and before May 21, 2006

Name _____ Date _____
SSN _____ REC _____

	General Requirements	Reference	Eval.
1	Initials & signatures on application	10.209(e)(3)(a)	
2	Explanation, if required		
3	Renewal NMT 12 months before or after license expiration	10.209(e)(1)	
4	Renewal more than 12 months after license expiration (Complete retest and assessment for license required)	10.209(f)	
5	License to be renewed, or a copy of the license.	10.209(e)(3)(b)	
6	NDR	46 CFR 10.201(i)	
7	Physical Examination	10.209(e)(3)(c)	
8	SAMHSA drug screen	46 CFR 10.202(i)	
9	Radar Certificate Oceans:	46 CFR 10.815/10.480 46 CFR 10.401(g)	
10	Fees	46 CFR 10.109	
	Evaluation		
	Exam		
	Issue		
11	Service Requirements		
	360 days U/W in last 5 years or ,	10.209(e)(3)(e)	
	Complete comprehensive open book renewal exercise.		
	For conversion of Masters and Mates, 90 days operating towing vessels during licensed experience		
	For conversion of Masters and Mates ≤ 200GRT: Tonnage limitation, or 24 months w/examinations		
	Examinations		
<p>Example: Master Stm/Mtr NMT 500 GRT N/C at first renewal w/90 days towing experience converts to:</p> <p><i>“Master Stm/Mtr NMT 500 GRT N/C; Also, Master of Towing Vessels Upon Near Coastal Waters and the Western Rivers.”</i></p>			
Notes:			

Evaluator _____ Date _____

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Towing Officers' Assessment Record: Near Coastal/Oceans

NAME: _____

LICENSE NO.: _____

Considered Proficient

Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
A.		Vessel Familiarization		
A.1.	X	Locate and demonstrate use of fire-fighting equipment		
A.2.	X	Locate and demonstrate use of life-saving equipment		
A.3.		Identify and describe:		
A.3.a.	X	a. main engine or propulsion system		
A.3.b.	X	b. steering system		
A.3.c.	X	c. auxiliary systems		
A.4.	X	Describe and follow vessel's fuel-transfer procedures		
A.5.	X	Identify physical characteristics of vessel and tow		
A.6.	X	Conduct safety orientations for new crewmembers		
A.7.	X	Use vessel's internal-communication system or equipment		
A.8.		Secure vessel for sea by:		
A.8.a.		a. ensuring watertight integrity		
A.8.b.		b. stowing deck gear		
A.9.		Operate towing gear		
A.10.		Inspect towing gear		
A.11.		Describe procedures for maintaining towing gear		
B.		Navigation and Piloting		
B.1.	X	Describe the effect of tide or current on vessel's position		
B.2.	X	Allow for draft and clearances in navigation of vessel		
B.3.	X	Conduct pre-voyage tests and inspections per 33 CFR 164.80		
B.4.	X	Describe and comply with reporting requirements for VTS		
B.5.	X	Communicate using VHF radio		
B.6.	X	Provide radio or whistle notice of getting under way		
B.7.	X	Make security calls		
B.8.	X	Initiate appropriate actions in reduced visibility		
B.9.		Identify and maintain required charts or maps and publications		
B.10.		Use required charts or maps and publications		
B.11.		Determine vessel's position on chart or map		
B.12.		Plan the route on paper or electronic charts		

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
B.13.		Incorporate information on forecast weather and sea conditions in route planning		
B.14.		Maintain track by plotting with electronic aids		
B.15.		Maintain heading using magnetic compass and gyro, if equipped		
C.		Watchstanding		
C.1.	X	Operate and use all electronic equipment in pilothouse		
C.2.	X	Use compass or swing-meter (as applicable)		
C.3.	X	Make appropriate entries in logbook		
C.4.	X	Maintain proper lookout		
C.5.	X	Communicate navigation and vessel-status information to the relieving watch officer		
C.6.		Follow standing orders or master's instructions on watch		
C.7.		Monitor traffic using visual, audio and electronic aids (e.g., binoculars, VHF, sound signals, and radar)		
C.8.		Monitor movement, ride and stability of tug		
C.9.		Monitor movement, ride and stability of barge		
C.10.		Monitor status of the towing gear, including:		
C.10.a.		a. Catenary		
C.10.b.		b. Chafing of tow wire or hawser		
C.10.c.		c. pushing gear		
C.11.		Take appropriate action in response to changing weather and sea conditions		
D.		Maneuvering		
D.1	X	Maneuver light boat		
D.2	X	Maneuver tow in high wind		
D.3	X	Make tow		
D.4	X	Break tow		
D.5		Dock and undock light boat		
D.6		Dock and sail the tow as directed by the master		
D.7.		Maneuver a tow under way		
D.7.a.		a. in port		
D.7.b.		b. at sea		
D.8.		Transition to or from towing, pushing, and alongside modes		
D.9		Anchor the tow (if applicable)		
E.		Rules of the Road		
E.1.		Apply the Rules of the Road in the following situations:		
E.1.a.	X	a. Meeting while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Meeting while towing astern		
E.1.b	X	b. Crossing while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Crossing while towing astern		

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
E.1.c	X	c. Overtaking another vessel while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Overtaking another vessel while towing astern		
E.1.d	X	d. Being stand-on vessel		
E.1.e	X	e. Being give-way vessel		
E.1.f	X	f. Operating in restricted visibility		
E.1.g	X	g. Properly lighting towing vessel and tow while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Properly lighting towing vessel and tow while towing astern		
E.1.h.	X	h. Provide proper sound and light signals (passing, fog, danger, etc.)		
E.2.		Recognize and use lights and shapes		
E.3.		Transition from International (COLREGS) to Inland Rules of the Road (and vice versa)		
F.		Safety and Emergency Response		
F.1.		Describe procedures to follow in response to:		
F.1.a.	X	a. Steering failure		
F.1.b	X	b. Loss of electrical power		
F.1.c.	X	c. Loss of propulsion		
F.1.d	X	d. Collision or allision		
F.1.e	X	e. Grounding		
F.1.f	X	f. Personnel injury		
F.1.g	X	g. Oil or hazardous substance spill		
F.2.	X	Conduct man-overboard drill		
F.3.	X	Conduct fire drill and instruction per 46 CFR 27.355		
F.4.	X	Describe procedures for abandoning ship		
F.5.	X	Describe procedures for use of general alarm		
F.6.	X	Describe procedures for use of all on-board safety equipment		
F.7.		Conduct barge-retrieval drill per 33 CFR 155.230(b)(2)(iv) (if applicable)		
F.8.		Conduct actual anchoring or drill per 33 CFR 155.230(b)(1)(iii) (if applicable)		
G.		Environmental Protection		
G.1.		Describe procedures for disposal of:		
G.1.a.	X	a. Garbage		
G.1.b.	X	b. Sewage		
G.1.c.	X	c. Bilge slops		
G.1.d.	X	d. Regulated waste		

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Towing Officers' Assessment Record: Great Lakes/Inland

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
A.		Vessel Familiarization		
A.1.	X	Locate and demonstrate use of fire-fighting equipment		
A.2.	X	Locate and demonstrate use of life-saving equipment		
A.3.		Identify and describe:		
A.3.a.	X	a. main engine or propulsion system		
A.3.b.	X	b. steering system		
A.3.c.	X	c. auxiliary systems		
A.4.	X	Describe and follow vessel's fuel-transfer procedures		
A.5.	X	Identify physical characteristics of vessel and tow		
A.6.	X	Conduct safety orientations for new crewmembers		
A.7.	X	Use vessel's internal-communications system or equipment		
B.		Navigation and Piloting		
B.1.	X	Describe the effect of tide or current on vessel's position		
B.2.	X	Allow for draft and clearances in navigation of vessel		
B.3.	X	Conduct pre-voyage tests and inspections per 33 CFR 164.80		
B.4.	X	Describe and comply with reporting requirements for VTS		
B.5.	X	Communicate using VHF radio		
B.6.	X	Provide radio or whistle notice of getting under way		
B.7.	X	Make security calls		
B.8.	X	Initiate appropriate actions in reduced visibility		
B.9.		Identify and maintain required charts or maps and publications		
B.10.		Use required charts or maps and publications		
B.11.		Determine vessel's position on chart or map		
B.12.		Maintain heading using magnetic compass		
B.13.		Incorporate information on forecast weather conditions in preparation for voyage		
C.		Watchstanding		
C.1.	X	Operate and use all electronic equipment in pilothouse		

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
C.2.	X	Use compass or swing-meter (as applicable)		
C.3.	X	Make appropriate entries in logbook		
C.4.	X	Maintain proper lookout		
C.5.	X	Communicate navigation and vessel-status information to the relieving watch officer		
D.		Maneuvering		
D.1	X	Maneuver light boat		
D.2	X	Maneuver tow in high wind		
D.3	X	Make tow		
D.4	X	Break tow		
D.5		Get under way, pushing ahead		
D.6		Get under way, towing alongside		
D.7		Maneuver loaded tow in narrow channels		
D.8		Maneuver empty tow in narrow channels		
D.9		Maneuver tow around sharp bends and turns		
D.10.		Maneuver tow with following current		
D.11.		Maneuver tow against current		
D.12		Maneuver in channel with deep-draft traffic		
D.13		Maneuver through bridge		
D.14.		Land with current		
D.15.		Land against current		
D.16.		Moor to piling, cell, or dock		
E.		Rules of the Road		
E.1.		Apply the Rules of the Road in the following situations:		
E.1.a.	X	a. Meeting while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Meeting while towing astern		
E.1.b	X	b. Crossing while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Crossing while towing astern		
E.1.c	X	c. Overtaking another vessel while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Overtaking another vessel while towing astern		
E.1.d	X	d. Being stand-on vessel		
E.1.e	X	e. Being give-way vessel		
E.1.f	X	f. Operating in restricted visibility		
E.1.g	X	g. Properly lighting towing vessel and tow while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Properly lighting towing vessel and tow while towing astern		
E.1.h.	X	h. Provide proper sound and light signals (passing, fog, danger, etc.)		

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
F.		Safety and Emergency Response		
F.1.		Describe procedures to be followed in response to:		
F.1.a.	X	a. Steering failure		
F.1.b.	X	b. Loss of electrical power		
F.1.c.	X	c. Loss of propulsion		
F.1.d.	X	d. Collision/allision		
F.1.e.	X	e. Grounding		
F.1.f.	X	f. Personnel injury		
F.1.g.	X	g. Oil or hazardous substance spill		
F.2.	X	Conduct man overboard drill		
F.3.	X	Conduct fire drill and instruction per 46 CFR 27.355		
F.4.	X	Describe procedures for abandoning ship		
F.5.	X	Describe procedures for use of general alarm		
F.6.	X	Describe procedures for use of all on-board safety equipment		
G.		Environmental Protection		
G.1.		Describe procedures for disposal of:		
G.1.a.	X	a. Garbage		
G.1.b.	X	b. Sewage		
G.1.c.	X	c. Bilge slops		
G.1.d.	X	d. Regulated waste		

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Towing Officers' Assessment Record: Western Rivers

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
A.		Vessel Familiarization		
A.1.	X	Locate and demonstrate use of fire-fighting equipment		
A.2.	X	Locate and demonstrate use of life-saving equipment		
A.3.		Identify and describe:		
A.3.a.	X	a. main engine or propulsion system		
A.3.b.	X	b. steering system		
A.3.c.	X	c. auxiliary systems		
A.4.	X	Describe and follow vessel's fuel-transfer procedures		
A.5.	X	Identify physical characteristics of vessel and tow		
A.6.	X	Conduct safety orientations for new crewmembers		
A.7.	X	Use vessel's internal-communications system or equipment		
B.		Navigation and Piloting		
B.1.	X	Describe the effect of tide or current on vessel's position		
B.2.	X	Allow for draft and clearances in navigation of vessel		
B.3.	X	Conduct pre-voyage tests and inspections per 33 CFR 164.80		
B.4.	X	Describe and comply with reporting requirements for VTS		
B.5.	X	Communicate using VHF radio		
B.6.	X	Provide radio or whistle notice of getting under way		
B.7.	X	Make security calls		
B.8.	X	Initiate appropriate actions in reduced visibility		
B.9.		Identify and maintain required charts or maps and publications		
B.10.		Use required charts or maps and publications		
B.11.		Determine vessel's position on chart or map		
C.		Watchstanding		
C.1.	X	Operate and use all electronic equipment in pilothouse		
C.2.	X	Use compass or swing meter (as applicable)		
C.3.	X	Make appropriate entries in logbook		
C.4.	X	Maintain proper lookout		

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
C.5.	X	Communicate navigation and vessel-status information to the relieving watch officer		
D.		Maneuvering		
D.1	X	Maneuver light boat		
D.2	X	Maneuver tow in high wind		
D.3	X	Make tow		
D.4	X	Break tow		
D.5		Get under way, pushing ahead		
D.6		Get under way, towing alongside		
D.7		Maneuver loaded tow in narrow channels		
D.8		Maneuver empty tow in narrow channels		
D.9		Maneuver tow around sharp bends and turns		
D.10.		Maneuver tow with following current		
D.11.		Maneuver tow against current		
D.12		Maneuver through bridge		
D.13		Maneuver in high water		
D.14.		Maneuver in low water		
D.15.		Flank		
D.16.		Enter lock with upstream approach		
D.17.		Enter lock with downstream approach		
D.18.		Leave lock with upstream departure		
D.19.		Leave lock with downstream departure		
D.19.		Land upstream		
D.20.		Land downstream		
D.21.		Moor to piling, cell, or dock		
E.		Rules of the Road		
E.1.		Apply the Rules of the Road in the following situations:		
E.1.a.	X	a. Meeting while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Meeting while towing astern		
E.1.b	X	b. Crossing while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Crossing while towing astern		
E.1.c	X	c. Overtaking another vessel while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Overtaking another vessel while towing astern		
E.1.d	X	d. Being stand-on vessel		
E.1.e	X	e. Being give-way vessel		
E.1.f	X	f. Operating in restricted visibility		
E.1.g	X	g. Properly light towing vessel and tow while pushing ahead, or		
	X	Properly light towing vessel and tow while towing astern		

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
E.1.h.	X	h. Provide proper sound and light signals (passing, fog, danger, etc.)		
E.2.		Apply Rules of the Road regarding passing upbound and downbound traffic		
F.		Safety and Emergency Response		
F.1.		Describe procedures to follow in response to:		
F.1.a.	X	a. Steering failure		
F.1.b.	X	b. Loss of electrical power		
F.1.c.	X	c. Loss of propulsion		
F.1.d.	X	d. Collision or allision		
F.1.e.	X	e. Grounding		
F.1.f.	X	f. Personnel injury		
F.1.g.	X	g. Oil or hazardous substance spill		
F.2.	X	Conduct man overboard drill		
F.3.	X	Conduct fire drill and instruction per 46 CFR 27.355		
F.4.	X	Describe procedures for abandoning ship		
F.5.	X	Describe procedures for use of general alarm		
F.6.	X	Describe procedures for use of all on-board safety equipment		
G.		Environmental Protection		
G.1.		Describe procedures for disposal of:		
G.1.a.	X	a. Garbage		
G.1.b.	X	b. Sewage		
G.1.c.	X	c. Bilge slops		
G.1.d.	X	d. Regulated waste		

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Towing Officers' Assessment Record: Limited

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Considered Proficient

Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
A.		Vessel Familiarization		
A.1.	X	Locate and demonstrate use of fire-fighting equipment		
A.2.	X	Locate and demonstrate use of life-saving equipment		
A.3.		Identify and describe:		
A.3.a.	X	a. main engine or propulsion system		
A.3.b.	X	b. steering system		
A.3.c.	X	c. auxiliary systems		
A.4.	X	Describe and follow vessel's fuel-transfer procedures		
A.5.	X	Identify physical characteristics of vessel and tow		
A.6.	X	Conduct safety orientations for new crewmembers		
A.7.	X	Use vessel's internal-communications system or equipment		
B.		Navigation and Piloting		
B.1.	X	Describe the effect of tide or current on vessel's position		
B.2.	X	Allow for draft and clearances in navigation of vessel		
B.3.	X	Conduct pre-voyage tests and inspections per 33 CFR 164.80		
B.4.	X	Describe and comply with reporting requirements for VTS		
B.5.	X	Communicate using VHF radio		
B.6.	X	Provide radio or whistle notice of getting under way		
B.7.	X	Make security calls		
B.8.	X	Initiate appropriate actions in reduced visibility		
C.		Watchstanding		
C.1.	X	Operate and use all electronic equipment in pilothouse		
C.2.	X	Use compass or swing-meter (as applicable)		
C.3.	X	Make appropriate entries in logbook		
C.4.	X	Maintain proper lookout		
C.5.	X	Communicate navigation and vessel-status information to the relieving watch officer		

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
D.		Maneuvering		
D.1.	X	Maneuver light boat		
D.2.	X	Maneuver tow in high wind		
D.3.	X	Make tow		
D.4.	X	Break tow		
D.5.		Get under way, pushing ahead		
D.6.		Get under way, towing alongside		
D.7.		Maneuver tow with following current		
D.8.		Maneuver tow against current		
D.9.		Maneuver in high water		
D.10.		Maneuver in low water		
D.11.		Land with current		
D.12.		Land against current		
D.13.		Moor to piling, cell, or dock		
E.		Rules of the Road		
E.1.		Apply the Rules of the Road in the following situations:		
E.1.a.	X	a. Meeting while pushing ahead, <i>or</i>		
	X	Meeting while towing astern		
E.1.b.	X	b. Crossing while pushing ahead, <i>or</i>		
	X	Crossing while towing astern		
E.1.c.	X	c. Overtaking another vessel while pushing ahead, <i>or</i>		
	X	Overtaking another vessel while towing astern		
E.1.d.	X	d. Being stand-on vessel		
E.1.e.	X	e. Being give-way vessel		
E.1.f.	X	f. Operating in restricted visibility		
E.1.g.	X	g. Properly light towing vessel and tow while pushing ahead, <i>or</i>		
	X	Properly light towing vessel and tow while towing astern		
E.1.h.	X	h. Provide proper sound and light signals (passing, fog, danger, etc.)		
E.2.		Apply Rules of the Road regarding passing upbound and downbound traffic (if applicable)		
F.		Safety and Emergency Response		
F.1.		Describe procedures to be followed in response to:		
F.1.a.	X	a. Steering failure		
F.1.b.	X	b. Loss of electrical power		
F.1.c.	X	c. Loss of propulsion		
F.1.d.	X	d. Collision or allision		
F.1.e.	X	e. Grounding		

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Task No.	Common Element	Task or Duty	DE's Initials	Date
F.1.f.	X	f. Personnel injury		
F.1.g.	X	g. Oil or hazardous substance spill		
F.2.	X	Conduct man overboard drill		
F.3.	X	Conduct fire drill and instruction per 46 CFR 27.355		
F.4.	X	Describe procedures for abandoning ship		
F.5.	X	Describe procedures for use of general alarm		
F.6.	X	Describe procedures for use of all on-board safety equipment		
G.		Environmental Protection		
G.1.		Describe procedures for disposal of:		
G.1.a.	X	a. Garbage		
G.1.b.	X	b. Sewage		
G.1.c.	X	c. Bilge slops		
G.1.d.	X	d. Regulated waste		

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